

R E M A R K S

By this amendment, claims 1-3, 7 and 10-12 are canceled. In addition, claims 13-16 are added with the dependencies of claims 4-6 and 8 changed to claim 13, either directly or indirectly, and an amendment is made to claim 6 to be consistent with the terminology of claim 13. The examiner's indication that claims 7 and 10 are drawn to allowable subject matter is acknowledged with appreciation. Claim 9 is amended to include the subject matter of claims 9 and 10 and a new claim 15 is added to include the subject matter of claims 1, 2, 3 and 7. For these reasons, claims 9 and 15 are believed allowable. Finally, a minor amendment is made to paragraph [0017] in the specification to correct a grammatical error and the abstract of the disclosure is amended to eliminate the term "means." Reconsideration of claims 4-6, 8, 9 and 13-16 is requested.

By the office action of June 30, 2004, the examiner rejected independent claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102 as being anticipated by Marotta et al. and by Payton. New claim 13 specifically recites a pair of cross members with an anchoring block disposed on the upper end of the vertical member and a cap enveloping the anchoring block. This structure is not shown in the art cited by the examiner and, with specific reference to Payton, element 18 shown therein is simply a wire guide integrally affixed to the distal end of member 16. Also, the implant of Marotta et al. is an endoseous anchor placed only in the palatal

vault whereas applicant's is subperiosteal and placed in either arch. For these reasons, independent claim 13 is believed allowable.

Dependent claims 4-6, 8, 14 and 16 are believed allowable because they define further specific features of applicant's invention.

From the above, it is believed that this application is in condition for allowance. Therefore, reconsideration and allowance of claims 4-6, 8, 9, and 13-16 are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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